

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

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AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

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AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

UNCLAS KUWAIT 4633

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BMEP, EPAP, BTIO, KU

SUBJ: GOK TO ESTABLISH LARGE POULTRY OPERATION

1. COUNCIL OF MINISTERS IN RECENT MEETING AUTHORIZED ESTABLISHMENT OF PUBLIC SHAREHOLDING COMPANY TO RAISE POULTRY WITH CAPITAL OF KD 4 MILLION (KD1 EQUALS \$3.38). OWNERS WOULD INCLUDE KUWAIT SUPPLIES CO., A LARGELY GOK-OWNED IMPORTER OF BULK FOODSTUFFS BEING SUBSIDIZED BY THE GOVERNMENT; A GROUP OF INVESTORS PRESENTLY OWNING POULTRY FARMS; AND PUBLIC SHAREHOLDERS.

2. THIS PROJECT WOULD COMPLEMENT POULTRY PROCESSING PLANT PRESENTLY BEING TENDERED BY GOK AND ON WHICH ONE US COMPANY, BARKER INTERNATIONAL, A SUBSIDIARY OF BIG DUTCHMEN, IS BIDDING. MOREOVER, "KUWAIT TIMES" ARTICLE OF OCT 21 CLAIMS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE OF MIN COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY APPROVED CHICKEN FARM TO PRODUCE 1.2 MILLION FOWLS ANNUALLY. IT NOT CLEAR IF THIS PRIVATE SECTOR PROJECT SEPARATE FROM GOK-APPROVED PROJECT SINCE WE HAVE HEARD OTHERS IN PRIVATE SECTOR PREVIOUSLY EXPRESS INTEREST IN ESTABLISHING LARGE POULTRY FARM.

3. NO ONE YET NAMED TO MANAGE COMPANY BUT COMMERCE OR USDA MAY WISH ALERT SEVERAL COMPANIES CAPABLE UNDERTAKING SUCH A
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PROJECT. WE SHALL REPORT FURTHER DETAILS AS THEY BECOME

APJILABLE.

4. GOK'S INTEREST IN ESPANDING POULTRY PRODUCTION SIGNIFICANT
IN THAT POULTRY ONE OF FEW AGRICULTURAL AREAS IN WHICH COUNTRY
CAN BECOME SELF-SUFFICIENT. THIS TIES IN WITH REPORTS WE HAVE
HEARD CONCERNING KUWAIT'S INTEREST IN INVESTING IN AGRICULTURAL
AND RAW MATERIAL RESOURCES ABROAD IN EFFORT BECOME LESS DEPENDENT
ON FOREIGN OWNED SUPPLIES.
STOLTZFUS

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